First Name: Setareh Last Name: Torabi

Degree: M. A. Field of Study: Children's Literature

Supervisors: Dr. M. Khosronejad Defence Date: 24 Sep 2013

The Study of Techniques of Nonsense Literature in Iranian Children's Literature

Literary nonsense is a genre in children's literature which is neither devalued nor forgotten in the course of history. Rather it has always been delightful and enjoyable and is never forgotten. This study introduces Persian literary nonsense and analyzes the characteristics and techniques of this genre making it constant, interesting and pervasive among children.

This research is done within the qualitative paradigm utilizing the methodology of Mayring's (2000) deductive-inductive content analysis. The samples are divided into poetries and stories. For poetry the contemporary nonsense poems in the book of *Hich Hich Hichaneh* (1389), and Iranian folkloric children poems in the book of *Iranian Folklores* (1346) are selected. As for the stories a group of folkloric legends categorized by Khosronejad (1389) were selected. The criteria for the researcher were in correspondence with nonsense characteristics.

It is concluded that Persian nonsense works are mostly engaged with form and language structure. It also demonstrated that nonsense works--both poetry and story-- enjoy the most fundamental and primary elements of children poetries characteristics which are implied in language constructs and rhyme, since the best way for language communication with children is through rhythm. The remarkable feature of nonsense stories is an approximation and amalgamation with poetic language of this genre. Nonsense acts as the alphabet of children poetry, for it embraces all the properties that make children's poetry pervasive. Therefore this genre is a special one in children's literature springing from folkloric literature. Enjoying such properties as rhythm and rhyme and language constructs like phonetic and semantic balance, it aims at making fun and taking delight. Its quintessence consists of inversion, defamiliarization and nonsensicallity. In nonsense poetry what plays salient roles are the features which create the fluctuation between centration and decentration. The mood revolves around playfulness and delight. Hence by providing a ground for developing mental faculty, creativity and language learning it is appropriate for young children.

Regarding the quality of being nonsense, the studied poems and stories can be categorized into these classes: syntax nonsense, semantic nonsense and pure nonsense.

Keywords: Nonsense, *Hich Hich Hichaneh*, Folklore, Language, delight, Decentration.